

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, FORESTRY, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

327 House Office Building

Thursday 8:30 A.M.

January 19, 2006

Representative Tom Casperson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Representative Casperson requested attendance be called to establish a quorum of the appointed committee members:

Present: Representatives Casperson, Hildenbrand, Garfield, Nitz, Stakoe, Baxter, Rocca, McDowell, Sheltroun, Gillard and Espinoza.

Absent: None.

Representative Garfield moved, supported by **Representative Gillard**, to approve the minutes of the **December 8, 2005** meeting.

There being no objection, the motion prevailed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair laid SB 366 before the committee.

SB 366 Garcia Recreation; state parks; posting at park entrances whether or not hunting or firearm usage is allowed within the state park; require.

Senator Garcia, sponsor of **SB 366**, explained his bill to the committee. Questions and discussion followed.

Rodney Stokes, representing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of **SB 366**.

Representative Garfield moved, supported by **Representative Gillard**, to report out **SB 366** with recommendation.

The motion prevailed by a **vote of 11-0-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Casperson, Hildenbrand, Garfield, Nitz, Stakoe, Baxter, Rocca, McDowell, Sheltroun, Gillard and Espinoza,

Nays: None,

Pass: None.

SB 366 reported out with recommendation.

The Chair laid HB 5453, HB 5454, HB 5455, HB 5456, HB 5457, HB 5458 and HB 5462 before the committee.

HB 5453	Casperson	Natural resources; forests; timber harvests on state forestlands; restrict only if provided by state or federal law.
HB 5454	Elsenheimer	Natural resources; forests; commercial forests; modify penalties for withdrawing lands from commercial forest.
HB 5455	Huizenga	Natural resources; forests; commercial forest act; modify eligibility criteria.
HB 5456	Walker	Economic development; renaissance zones; forest products renaissance zones; create.
HB 5457	Emmons	Taxation; other; qualified forest property recapture tax; create.
HB 5458	Robertson	Education; other; qualified forest property; exempt from operating mills.
HB 5462	Farhat	Property tax; classification; tax incentive for managing private forestland through a development rights agreement; provide for.

Mickey Knight, representing the Michigan Assessors Association, submitted a testimony card indicating opposition to **HB 5457 and HB 5462**, and did not wish to speak.

The following submitted testimony cards in **support of the forestry bill package**, but did not wish to speak.

Marc Lee, representing Besse Forest Products

Scott Robbins, representing Smurfit-Stone Container

Gene Francisco, representing the Timber Producers Association

Jacob Hayrynen, representing J.M.Longyear LLC

Tom Barnes, representing the Michigan Association of Timbermen

Warren Suchovsky, representing himself as a private non industrial landowner, submitted a testimony card indicating support for **HB 5462**, but did not wish to speak. Mr. Suchovsky also submitted written testimony.*

David Bertram, representing the Michigan Townships Association, submitted a testimony card indicating opposition to the forestry bill package and did not wish to speak.

Tom Hickson, representing the Michigan Association of Counties, testified in opposition to the forestry bill package as written. Questions and discussion followed.

Erin McDonough, representing the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, testified in opposition to **HB 5453**. Questions and discussion followed.

Steve Arwood, representing the Heart of the Lakes, testified indicating a neutral position on the forestry bill package at this time. Questions and discussion followed.

James McBryde, representing the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, testified indicating their position is pending on **HB 5456**.

Peggy Johnson, representing Michigan Department of Treasury, testified indicating opposition to **HB 5454**, **HB 5455**, **HB 5457**, **HB 5458** and **HB 5462** as written. Questions and discussion followed.

Rodney Stokes and Lynne Boyd, representing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified in opposition to **HB 5453**, **HB 5454** and **HB 5455**. Questions and discussion followed.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the **Chair** adjourned the meeting, the time being **10:15 a.m.**

Representative Tom Casperson, Chair

Dave Mead
Committee Clerk
January 19, 2006
1 hour 45 minutes

Date Approved and Signed

* indicated printed material attached to original minutes.